

Adult Literacy Contact Centre NEWSLETTER



October 1993

Volume 6, Number 9

A project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C.

1993/94 B.C. Literacy Cost-shared Projects

The National Literacy Secretariat, Human Resources and Labour Canada; and the provincial Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour will fund 35 literacy cost-shared projects in B.C. for 1993/1994.

The announcement of the \$1.2 million funding was made on September 8, 1993 in Ottawa by Bernard Valcourt, Minister of Human Resources and Labour Canada, and in B.C. by Tom Perry, former Minister of Advanced Education, Training and Technology. (See separate story on the new provincial ministry on page 3.)

The 35 projects are shared by 15 B.C. community colleges and the Open Learning Agency. They represent interest areas such as: aboriginal literacy; family or intergenerational literacy; the forest industry and the workplace; and learner support activities.

The projects are part of the National Literacy Program, which, under the restructuring of the federal government announced by Prime Minister Kim Campbell on June 25, 1993, became part of Human Resources and Labour Canada.

Two of the purposes and goals of the adult literacy cost-shared fund are to:

- ❖ "encourage active involvement of all sectors of society -- government, voluntary groups, educational institutions, business and labour -- in activities which enhance, improve and support literacy education in British Columbia."

- ❖ "develop learning materials and research, improve access and outreach, promote coordination and information sharing, increase public awareness, and provide professional development opportunities."

Some examples of the 1993/94 projects are:

Literacy and Consumerism -- An Inquiry
In Cranbrook, East Kootenay Community College, in cooperation with local businesses such as Canada Safeway, Cranbrook Discount Foods, Overwaitea Foods, Shop Easy, and Super Valu, will investigate the difficulties low-literacy shoppers have with printed material in grocery stores (such as labels, signs, and comparison shopping).

Bridging the Gap

Local workers who need vocabulary and basic skills to pass provincial licensing examinations for employment -- exams such as pesticide applicators, first aid, and chainsaw safety -- will

continued on page 2

"Projects" from page 1

be tutored in these skills by volunteers from Northern Lights College, the local Literacy Society and the Chamber of Commerce.

Intergenerational Family Literacy Program

The University College of the Fraser Valley, in conjunction with a local literacy association, school district, and Chilliwack Community Services, will pilot a family literacy program in a neighbourhood elementary school three mornings a week for six and one half months. The program, for both Natives and non-Natives, will include adult basic education and life skills training for parents, pre-school activities for children, and creative reading time together for both.

A Place to Learn

A group of First Nations elders, with literacy students from North Island College in Alert Bay, will visit 15 local tribal villages to record their traditional culture in stories, photos and on video. A booklet will be distributed following the project.

Prince George Corrections Centre Literacy Outreach

Inmates at the Corrections Centre will determine the content of literacy courses and practical workshops offered to them by the College of New Caledonia, and the results of the workshops will be published in an anthology.

Copies of "1993/94 Cost-shared Projects: Contacts and Goals," a detailed list of all the projects, are available from the Adult Literacy Contact Centre (phone 1-800-663-1293).

For information about the cost-shared fund and application procedure, contact:

Mary Waddington, Coordinator
Literacy and ABE Programs
Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour
Second Floor - 838 Fort Street
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 1H8
Phone: 387-6174
Fax: 356-8851 ☐

Regional PD Workshops Continue

Professional development workshops for literacy and adult basic education practitioners are continuing in three B.C. college regions during October and November. The workshops are part of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C.'s Regional Professional Development and Needs Assessment Project. Workshops have been held in four regions to date: North Central (Prince George); Northwest (Terrace); Cariboo-Okanagan (Kamloops); and Northeast (Dawson Creek).

To register, phone the local contact for the workshop in your region:

LOWER MAINLAND REGION October 21 - 22

Location:

Chateau Granville Hotel, Vancouver

Contact:

Linda Hackett, Coordinator
Adult Literacy Contact Centre
Vancouver
Phone: 1-800-663-1293 (toll-free in B.C.)
684-0624 (Lower Mainland)

Workshop topics:

"Strategies for Teaching Reading and Writing."
Presenter: Dr. Florence Pieronek, Department of Language Education, University of British Columbia.

"Adult Learning Materials: What, Why and How?" Presenter: Suzanne Ives, Coordinator, Wordstream Press, Victoria READ Society.

"Learner Assessment at the Fundamental ABE Level." Presenters: Joyce Cameron, Instructor, Developmental Education, Douglas College; and Laurie Gould, Instructor, Basic Education

continued on page 3

"Workshops" from page 2

Department, King Edward
Campus, Vancouver
Community College.

"Strategies for Teaching
Critical Thinking." Presenter:
Moirra Gutteridge, Instructor of
Philosophy, University College
of the Fraser Valley.

"Oral Communication Skills."
Presenter: Colleen McGoff
Dean, Instructor, Adult Basic
Education Department,
Kwantlen College.

"Mathematics: A to Z in a
Learning Centre." Presenters:
Louise Gallie, Instructor,
School District # 40 (New
Westminster); and Loraine
Wong, ESL/Literacy
Department Head, Langley
Adult Education Centre.

"The Never-fail Method of
Writing." Presenter: Kate
Nonesuch, Instructor,
Developmental Education,
Malaspina College.

"SkillPlan: A Collaborative
Approach to Learning."
Presenters: Elizabeth
Thompson, Adult Education
Advisor, *SkillPlan*; Jane
Morton, Instructor and Tutor,
Open Learning Agency; and
others (to be confirmed).

This is the last call for the Lower
Mainland workshops. If you see this
before 4:30 p.m. on October 18, and
wish to register, please call
1-800-663-1293 to see if any places
in the workshops are still available.

KOOTENAY REGION October 28 - 29

Location:
East Kootenay Community
College, Cranbrook

Contact:
Bob Gadsby, Instructor
Adult Basic Education
East Kootenay Community
College, Invermere
Phone: 342-3210
Fax: 342-9221

Workshop topics:

"Strategies for Teaching
Critical Thinking." (see
above).

"Working with Students with
Learning Difficulties."
Presenter: Anne Erickson,
Access Services, Malaspina
College.

VANCOUVER ISLAND REGION November 18 - 19

Location:
Malaspina College, Nanaimo

Contact:
Lynn Hunter, Literacy
Coordinator
Developmental Programs
Malaspina College, Nanaimo
Phone: 755-8741

or:
Jude Staffanson, Area
Department Secretary
Adult Basic Education
Department
Malaspina College, Nanaimo
Phone: 755-8759

Workshop topics:

"Strategies for Teaching
Critical Thinking"
(see above).

"The Never-fail Method of
Writing" (see above).

"Strategies for Teaching
Reading and Writing"
(see above).

"Working with Students with
Learning Difficulties"
(see above).

"Adult Learning Materials:
What, Why and How?"
(see above). □

New Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour

The former Ministry of
Advanced Education, Training
and Technology has been
combined with the former
Ministry of Labour to form a
new ministry -- the Ministry of
Skills, Training and Labour.

The change was announced as
part of the September 15, 1993
cabinet shuffle by Premier Mike
Harcourt.

The Minister of Skills, Training
and Labour is the Honourable
Dan Miller. The Deputy
Minister, Skills and Training, is
Garry Wouters; the Deputy
Minister, Labour, is Claude
Heywood.

continued on page 4

"New Ministry" from page 3

According to the "Summary of Ministry Responsibilities" released by the Government of British Columbia, the new Ministry has general responsibilities for:

- ♦ training and skills development
- ♦ universities and colleges
- ♦ worker retraining strategies
- ♦ community-based learning
- ♦ English as a second language
- ♦ student financial assistance
- ♦ labour relations
- ♦ workers' compensation
- ♦ employment standards
- ♦ training and job placement for social assistance recipients, U.I. exhaustees and U.I. ineligible
- ♦ pension benefits standards

The address, fax and phone numbers of the following Ministry contacts remain the same:

Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour

Developmental Programs

Second Floor - 838 Fort Street

Victoria, B.C.

V8W 1H8

Phone: 387-6189

Fax: 356-8851

Norma Kidd, Manager
Developmental Programs
Phone: 387-6182

Mary Waddington, Coordinator
Literacy and ABE Programs
Phone: 387-6174

Reena Baker, Coordinator
English Language Training Programs
Phone: 387-6176 ☐

Literacy Linked with Museums

Literacy educators are invited to register for a one-day workshop designed to link museums with the literacy community, to be held in Victoria and Vancouver later this month.

The workshops -- called "Exploring Literacy in and through Museums" -- are part of a national project called "Reading the Museum," coordinated by the Canadian Museums Association (CMA) and funded by the National Literacy Secretariat. The CMA is holding the workshops in partnership with "Storylinks: Learning through Dialogue," an Ontario-based non-profit network that offers workshops, consultations and support to learners, volunteers and professionals involved in literacy and adult basic education.

The workshop instructor is Mary Breen, "Storylinks" Coordinator, who has two years experience giving oral history workshops for literacy workers, tutors and learners in Ontario.

Workshop participants "will explore ways of improving links between museums and the literacy community," and focus on "practical applications of the principles of clear language and design, as a means of attracting both readers and non-readers to

the museum." It is hoped that the workshop participants will "discover the many creative ways in which peoples' stories can be brought to light and to life through the museum."

The workshops are scheduled for:

Wednesday October 27

9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Room 704

Ministry of Forests
1483 Douglas Street
Victoria

Friday October 29

9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Vancouver Museum
1100 Chestnut Street
Vancouver

The registration deadline for both workshops is October 20, 1993. Registration is limited to 20 on each date.

For further information on the workshops, contact:

Suzanne Bessette
Professional Development
Coordinator
British Columbia Museums
Association
514 Government Street
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 4X4
Phone: 387-3315
Fax: 386-6117 ☐

Kootenay Panel Reports on Training Needs

A provincial government panel mandated to review post-secondary education and training needs in the Kootenay region of B.C. has released its report.

The report, called "The Kootenay Learning Culture," was produced by the Kootenay Post-Secondary Education and Training Review Panel, which was jointly established in November 1992 by three Ministries: the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology; the Ministry of Economic Development, Small Business and Trade; and the Ministry of Tourism and Culture.

The panel was chaired by Dr. E. Margaret Fulton, with an advisory committee made up of representatives from the three ministries.

The panel held public hearings in the Kootenay region during March and April, 1993. It received 113 written submissions, approximately one-third from individuals and two-thirds from educational, business, government and community interest groups.

Among the Review Panel's recommendations are:

❖ the establishment, by the Open Learning Agency, of two pilot Community Electronic Learning Centres in conjunction with Selkirk College and East Kootenay Community College;

❖ "the empowering of the people in the region" through the establishment of a Kootenay Learning Trust, a regional coordinating group for workforce and education matters.

To obtain a copy of the report, contact:

Public Affairs Branch
Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour
838 Fort Street
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 1H8
Phone: 356-7274 ☐

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622 - 510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8

1-800-663-1293 Toll-free in B.C.

684-0624 Lower Mainland

684-8520 Facsimile

The Adult Literacy Contact Centre is a project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. and is jointly funded by the Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour; and the National Literacy Secretariat.

The Centre welcomes receiving your literacy news by phone, fax or mail. We reserve the right to edit written submissions for the newsletter.

The newsletter is published monthly (except as noted). It is available free of charge to any individual or agency upon request.



"THANKS, READERS!" FROM ALDA

The Adult Learning Disabilities Association (ALDA) fund-raiser flea market, originally scheduled for September 25, 1993, was postponed due to the number of donations of saleable goods received by the organization.

Frances Barnes of ALDA says, "ALDA wishes to thank *Adult Literacy Contact Centre Newsletter* readers for their generous response to our request for donations."

The September 1993 *ALCC Newsletter* invited Lower Mainland residents to donate clothing, jewellery, knickknacks and household items to ALDA for the sale.

The money raised from the sale will go towards supporting ALDA programs and services. ALDA is a non-profit public awareness, referral and counselling service that provides help for adults with learning disabilities.

The flea market is expected to be held in mid-October or later. For further information, contact:

Adult Learning Disabilities Association
1322 - 510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6B 1L8
Phone: 683-5554 ☐

Feminist Literacy Workers Network

A national Canadian women's literacy workers organization, which had its origins in a 1990 International Literacy Year event in B.C., has released a report on its activities.

The report, *"A Chance to Talk: The Birth of the Feminist Literacy Workers' Network"* (FLWN), documents the history of the FLWN following an informal gathering of women literacy workers attending the Literacy 2000 conference at Douglas College, New Westminster in October 1990.

The report was prepared for FLWN by Sally Gellard, a community literacy worker with the Community Adult Literacy and Learning Society (CALLS) in Courtenay, and Helene Blais, a literacy researcher from Quebec.

The FLWN held a founding meeting at the University of British Columbia in May 1992. With support from the Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women (CCLOW), FLWN was created to be "a national voice" for women in literacy, and to link together "all women working in the field of literacy as students, workers, researchers or volunteers."

According to the report, "Many women feel silenced in literacy programs when they suggest program changes or attempt to put woman-positive programs and events into place. They are often afraid to identify themselves as 'feminists' and experience negative feedback from colleagues, administrators, students and volunteers."

The 80 participants from across Canada who attended the UBC conference were sent a follow-up questionnaire in September 1992. The results of this questionnaire indicated that FLWN should:

- ❖ "concern itself with training and certification for paid workers and volunteers," and "the establishment of Canadian standards for the quality of literacy work"
- ❖ "address the issue of childcare, both for women literacy workers and for learners"
- ❖ "demand better working conditions and better salaries for women literacy workers"
- ❖ "make the possible links and parallels between feminist literacy work and low literacy rates among women."

FLWN has an 18-member steering committee, and a smaller working group which represents six regions of Canada: the north, B.C., the prairies, Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritimes.

FLWN founding members also generated the "Wandering Book," a kind of "chain letter" in book form. The idea of the book was to "provide a forum for women in literacy to tell their stories and to share their feelings, thoughts and experiences of literacy work with other women."

At present, 18 versions of the Wandering Book are circulating throughout B.C., Canada and the United States.

For further information, contact the Coordinator of the Wandering Book project:

Linda Forsythe, Instructor
Burnaby Correctional Centre
for Women
7900 Fraser Park Drive
Burnaby, B.C.
V5J 5B9
Phone: 436-6020 local 179
Fax: 660-9724

A Chance to Talk is available (at \$1.50 per copy) from:

Feminist Literacy Workers'
Network
c/o Canadian Congress for
Learning Opportunities for
Women
47 Main Street
Toronto, Ontario
M4E 2V6
Phone: (416) 699-1909
Fax: (416) 699-2145 □